

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Jonathan Blaylock,

Petitioner

v.

Ronald Oliver, *et al.*,

Respondents

Case No.: 2:25-cv-00782-JAD-NJK

**Order Screening and Serving Habeas
Petition, and Granting Motion for
Appointment of Counsel**

[ECF Nos. 1-1, 1-2]

Jonathan Blaylock is incarcerated at Nevada's Southern Desert Correctional Center and brings this petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 to challenge his 2019 state-court conviction.¹

I. Appointment of counsel is warranted.

State prisoners applying for habeas corpus relief are not entitled to appointed counsel unless the circumstances indicate that appointed counsel is necessary to prevent a due process violation.² But the court may appoint counsel at any stage of the proceedings if the interests of justice so require.³ Blaylock's petition indicates that he is serving a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole after 152 months, and it appears he may not be able to adequately litigate this action without counsel. I therefore find that appointing counsel for him is in the interests of justice. So I grant Blaylock's motion for appointment of counsel and appoint the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada (FPD) to represent him.

¹ Blaylock has paid the filing fee. ECF No. 5.

² *Chaney v. Lewis*, 801 F.2d 1191, 1196 (9th Cir. 1986) (citing *Kreiling v. Field*, 431 F.2d 638, 640 (9th Cir. 1970) (per curiam).

³ See 18 U.S.C. § 3006A; see also Rule 8(c), Rules Governing § 2254 Cases; *Chaney*, 801 F.2d at 1196.

1 **II. The court directs service of the petition.**

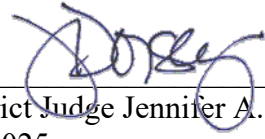
2 I have examined Blaylock's petition for writ of habeas corpus under Rule 4 of the Rules
3 Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts, and I determine that it merits
4 service upon the respondents. So I order the petition served upon the respondents, and direct the
5 respondents to appear, but I do not require any further action on their part at this time.

6 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **Petitioner's Motion for Appointment of Counsel**
7 **[ECF No. 1-2] is granted, and the Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada (FPD)**
8 **is appointed to represent the petitioner.** If the FPD is unable to represent the petitioner,
9 because of a conflict of interest or for any other reason, alternate counsel will be appointed. In
10 either case, counsel will represent the petitioner in all federal court proceedings relating to this
11 matter, unless allowed to withdraw. The FPD will have 30 days from the date of this order to
12 file a notice of appearance, or to indicate to the court its inability to represent the petitioner in
13 this case.

14 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that **the Clerk of the Court is directed to:**

- 15 • **SEPARATELY FILE** the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus [ECF No.
16 1-1] and the Motion for Appointment of Counsel [ECF No. 1-2];
 - 17 • **ELECTRONICALLY SERVE** upon the FPD a copy of this order and a
18 copy of the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus [ECF No. 1-1]; and
 - 19 • **ADD** Aaron Ford, Attorney General of the State of Nevada, as counsel for
20 Respondents and provide Respondents an electronic copy of all items
21 previously filed in this case by regenerating the Notice of Electronic Filing
22 to the office of the Attorney General only.
- 23

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondents will have 30 days from the date of this
2 order to appear in this action, but they will not be required to respond to the habeas petition at
3 this time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorsey", is written over a horizontal line.

U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
June 27, 2025